

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The Listing of Claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A tamper indicating closure configured for snap-on or screw-on application to a container, said closure comprising:

- a. a closure top portion;
- b. an annular depending skirt extending from said top portion, said depending skirt having an internal thread configuration adapted for engaging an external thread configuration on the neck portion of said container by snap-on application during initial installation of said closure to the container neck;
- c. an inner annular sealing flange depending from said closure top portion in spaced relation to said depending skirt; and
- d. a tamper indicating ring connected to said depending skirt by a plurality of frangible elements;

wherein said tamper indicating ring includes at least one arcuate projection extending around at least a portion of said tamper indicating ring arranged for registration with a container neck portion on which said closure is positioned and said closure includes at least one nonremovable member breakably attached to said tamper-indicating ring which cooperates with at least one said arcuate projection to assist in breaking said tamper indicating ring during removal of said closure from said container neck; and

Serial No. 09/145,690

Amdt. dated January 21, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 22, 2003

wherein at least one said arcuate projection is held in place by an annular locking flange on the container neck as said member is pulled away from said arcuate projection by twist-off removal of said annular depending skirt to cause said tamper indicating ring to break at a weakened area as said member pulls said tamper indicating ring upward to cause breakage of said frangible elements connecting said skirt to said tamper indicating ring and fracture of said weakened area by separation of said portion of said tamper indicating ring attached to said member from said portion of said tamper indicating ring attached to said arcuate projection;

wherein said tamper indicating ring includes an elevated area extending axially towards said depending skirt, wherein said elevated area defines a region of decreased ring spacing from said depending skirt and further comprising a plurality of said frangible elements and said elevated areas, wherein at least one of said frangible elements is connected to said depending skirt between two said elevated areas and wherein at least one other said frangible element is connected to said depending skirt from an elevated area;

wherein said elevated areas extending from said tamper indicating ring are of a known vertical height, and said frangible elements are of a height greater than that of said known height of said elevated areas; and

wherein said frangible element is broken by a projection located on said container neck and configured for engaging said frangible element to disconnect said closure from said tamper indicating ring upon twist-off removal of said closure from said container neck.

2. (cancelled) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 1 or 25, wherein said tamper indicating ring includes an elevated area extending axially towards said depending skirt, wherein said elevated area defines a region of decreased ring spacing from said depending skirt.

3. (cancelled) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 1 or 25, further comprising a plurality of said frangible elements and said elevated areas, wherein at least one of said frangible elements is connected to said depending skirt between two said elevated areas.

4. (cancelled) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 3, wherein at least one other said frangible element is connected to said depending skirt from an elevated area.

5. (cancelled) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 1 or 25 wherein said elevated areas extending from said tamper indicating ring are of a known vertical height, and said frangible elements are of a height greater than that of said known height of said elevated areas.

6. (cancelled) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 1 or 25 wherein said elevated areas extending from said tamper indicating ring are of a known vertical height, and said frangible elements are of a height greater than that of said known height of said elevated areas.

7. (cancelled) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 1 or 25, wherein said frangible element is broken by a projection located on said container neck and configured for engaging said frangible element to disconnect said closure from said tamper indicating ring upon twist-off removal of said closure from said container neck.

8. (cancelled) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 6, wherein said frangible element is broken by a projection located on said container neck and configured for engaging said frangible element to disconnect said closure from said tamper indicating ring upon twist-off removal of said closure from said container neck.

~~2~~ <sup>13</sup> ~~9~~. (previously amended) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 1 or ~~25~~, wherein said inner annular sealing flange includes at least one annular sealing bead extending around said inner annular sealing flange and being configured for engagement with the interior surface of said container neck finish.

~~3~~ <sup>13</sup> ~~10~~. (currently amended) The tamper indicating closure of Claims ~~81~~ or ~~26~~, wherein said inner annular sealing flange includes at least one annular sealing bead extending around said inner annular sealing flange and being configured for engagement with the interior surface of said container neck finish.

~~4~~ <sup>13</sup> ~~11~~. (previously amended) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 1 or ~~25~~, wherein said annular depending skirt includes at least one annular sealing bead extending around said skirt and being configured for engagement with the exterior surface of said container neck finish.

~~5~~ <sup>3</sup> ~~12~~. (previously amended) The tamper indicating closure of Claim ~~10~~, wherein said annular depending skirt includes at least one annular sealing bead extending around said skirt and being configured for engagement with the exterior surface of said container neck finish.

13. (cancelled) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 11, wherein at least one said annular sealing bead engages a sealing bead on the exterior of said container neck finish.

~~6~~ <sup>4</sup> ~~14~~. (previously amended) The tamper indicating closure of Claim ~~11~~, wherein at least one said annular sealing bead engages a sealing groove on the exterior of said container neck finish.

15. (cancelled) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 12, wherein at least one said annular sealing bead engages a sealing bead on the exterior of said container neck finish.

Serial No. 09/145,690

Amdt. dated January 21, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 22, 2003

7 ~~16~~. (currently amended) The tamper indicating closure of Claim ~~14~~<sup>12</sup>, wherein at least one said annular sealing bead engages a sealing groove on the exterior of said container neck finish.

8 ~~17~~. (previously amended) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 1 or ~~25~~<sup>13</sup>, wherein said thread configurations contain eight or nine circumferentially spaced individual thread leads.

9 ~~18~~. (original) The tamper indicating closure of Claim ~~12~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein said thread configurations contain eight or nine circumferentially spaced individual thread leads.

10 ~~19~~. (original) The tamper indicating closure of Claim ~~17~~<sup>8</sup>, wherein said thread leads are segmented.

11 ~~20~~. (original) The tamper indicating closure of Claim ~~18~~<sup>9</sup>, wherein said thread leads are segmented.

21. (cancelled) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 1 or 25, wherein said tamper indicating ring includes at least one arcuate projection extending around at least a portion of said tamper indicating ring arranged for registration with a container neck portion on which said closure is positioned.

12 ~~22~~. (previously amended) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 1 or ~~25~~<sup>13</sup>, wherein at least one said arcuate projection comprises a grooved locking member.

23. (cancelled) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 21, wherein said closure includes at least one nonremovable member breakably attached to said tamper-indicating ring which cooperates with at least one said arcuate projection to assist in breaking said tamper indicating ring during removal of said closure from said container neck.

*Serial No. 09/145,690*

*Amdt. dated January 21, 2004*

*Reply to Office Action of October 22, 2003*

24. (cancelled) The tamper indicating closure of Claim 23, wherein at least one said arcuate projection is held in place by an annular locking flange on said container neck as said member is pulled away from said arcuate projection by twist-off removal of said annular depending skirt to cause said tamper indicating ring to break at a weakened area as said member pulls said tamper indicating ring upward to cause breakage of said frangible elements and fracture of said weakened area by separation of said portion of said tamper indicating ring attached to said member from said portion of said tamper indicating ring attached to said arcuate projection.

13 ~~25~~. (currently amended) A tamper indicating closure configured for snap-on or screw-on application to a container, said closure and container comprising in combination:

- a. a closure top portion;
- b. an annular depending skirt extending from said top portion, said depending skirt having an internal thread configuration adapted for engaging an external thread configuration on the neck portion of said container by snap-on application during initial installation of said closure to said container neck;
- c. an inner annular sealing flange depending from said closure top portion in spaced relation to said depending skirt; and
- d. a tamper indicating ring connected to said depending skirt by a plurality of frangible elements;

wherein said tamper indicating ring includes at least one arcuate projection extending around at least a portion of said tamper indicating ring arranged for registration with a container neck portion on which said closure is positioned and said closure includes at least one nonremovable member breakably attached to said tamper-indicating ring which cooperates with

Serial No. 09/145,690  
Amdt. dated January 21, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 22, 2003

at least one said arcuate projection to assist in breaking said tamper indicating ring during removal of said closure from said container neck; and

wherein at least one said arcuate projection is held in place by an annular locking flange on said container neck as said member is pulled away from said arcuate projection by twist-off removal of said annular depending skirt to cause said tamper indicating ring to break at a weakened area as said member pulls said tamper indicating ring upward to cause breakage of said frangible elements connecting said skirt to said tamper indicating ring and fracture of said weakened area by separation of said portion of said tamper indicating ring attached to said member from said portion of said tamper indicating ring attached to said arcuate projection;

wherein said tamper indicating ring includes an elevated area extending axially towards said depending skirt, wherein said elevated area defines a region of decreased ring spacing from said depending skirt and further comprising a plurality of said frangible elements and said elevated areas, wherein at least one of said frangible elements is connected to said depending skirt between two said elevated areas and wherein at least one other said frangible element is connected to said depending skirt from an elevated area;

wherein said elevated areas extending from said tamper indicating ring are of a known vertical height, and said frangible elements are of a height greater than that of said known height of said elevated areas; and

wherein said frangible element is broken by a projection located on said container neck and configured for engaging said frangible element to disconnect said closure from said tamper indicating ring upon twist-off removal of said closure from said container neck.

Serial No. 09/145,690  
Amdt. dated January 21, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 22, 2003

14 26. (New) A tamper indicating closure configured for snap-on or screw-on application to a container, said closure and container comprising in combination:

a. a closure top portion;

b. an annular depending skirt extending from said top portion, said depending skirt having an internal thread configuration adapted for engaging an external thread configuration on the neck portion of said container by snap-on application during initial installation of said closure to said container neck;

c. an inner annular sealing flange depending from said closure top portion in spaced relation to said depending skirt; and

d. a tamper indicating ring connected to said depending skirt by a plurality of frangible elements;

wherein said tamper indicating ring includes at least one arcuate projection extending around at least a portion of said tamper indicating ring arranged for registration with a container neck portion on which said closure is positioned and said closure includes at least one nonremovable member breakably attached to said tamper-indicating ring which cooperates with at least one said arcuate projection to assist in breaking said tamper indicating ring during removal of said closure from said container neck;

wherein at least one said arcuate projection is held in place by an annular locking flange on said container neck as said member is pulled away from said arcuate projection by twist-off removal of said annular depending skirt to cause said tamper indicating ring to break at a weakened area as said member pulls said tamper indicating ring upward to cause breakage of said frangible elements connecting said skirt to said tamper indicating ring and fracture of said weakened



Serial No. 09/145,690

Amdt. dated January 21, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 22, 2003

area by separation of said portion of said tamper indicating ring attached to said member from said portion of said tamper indicating ring attached to said arcuate projection;

wherein said tamper indicating ring includes an elevated area extending axially towards said depending skirt, wherein said elevated area defines a region of decreased ring spacing from said depending skirt and further comprising a plurality of said frangible elements and said elevated areas, wherein at least one of said frangible elements is connected to said depending skirt between two said elevated areas and wherein at least one other said frangible element is connected to said depending skirt from an elevated area; and

wherein said frangible element is broken by a projection located on said container neck and configured for engaging said frangible element to disconnect said closure from said tamper indicating ring upon twist-off removal of said closure from said container neck.